

# Heights Jewish Center News

## Achdus—Unity and Friendship

### Looking Back and Looking Ahead - Rabbi's Message

With Rosh Hashana approaching, I can't help but think about the past year in its entirety. The Torah gives us direction for this process by telling us that "Hashem's eyes are on Eretz Yisrael from the beginning of the year to year's end." (Devorim 11:12) This pasuk tells us that not only is Hashem constantly aware, but also that He views Eretz Yisrael's progress on an annual basis. When we evaluate our own lives, the place to start is where we were a year ago and look at the progression to the present.

As a shul, one year ago, Heights Jewish Center had much to be proud of. It was a well-established shul that was open and welcome to all, regardless of level of knowledge or observance. We are known as a shul that cares deeply

and passionately about what G-d demands of us, while at the same time maintaining a deep respect for individuals who fall short of that goal on occasion. We carry a reputation for being in constant search of renewal and vibrancy while making

sure that the generations that built this shul are revered. This is reflected in the respectful manner that both young and old are treated. So much of the shul's success in these areas is owed to the many years of Rabbi Schur, zt"l's leadership.

As we look over the past year, we can see a progression of growth, built on the proud state that existed a year ago, and on the sincerity and drive of its board and active member-

*(Continued on page 2)*

*As we evaluate what was and what is, we look towards 5768, knowing our successes, and planning to build on them during the coming year, with Hashem's guidance.*

## SHANA TOVA—5768

**May the Almighty grant our entire synagogue family and our holy land of Israel a year of peace, good health, joy and prosperity.**

Rabbi & Mrs. Raphael Davidovich	The Bug Family	Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Cohen	The Crane Family
President Gershon & Mary Ireland	Larry and Linda Crane	Mr. and Mrs. Jay Goldstein	Rachel Faigenbam
Executive Officers	Marvin and Judy Gale	Mr. and Mrs. Jeren Goldstein	Josh, Sora and Leah Mendelson
Board of Trustees	Bela Glaser, M. D.	Betty and Meyer Hoffer	Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Ritzenberg
Office: Lena Katz/Miriam Chamberg	Marlene and Courtney Goldstein	Isak and Marian Kampinski	Mr. and Mrs. Alex Schnittlinger
Alex Adelman and Family	Rabbi Justin and Sofie Hofmann	Martin, Marla, Avramy & Aharon Lipman	Mr. and Mrs. Harry Schuster
Mr. and Mrs. Rob Altshuler	Shira Katz	Albert and Madelyn Pollack	Irwin & Lorna Shulman & Family
Holly Altshuler	U. Harold and Faige Males	Helen Rothman	Mrs. Dora Stankowicz
Mr. and Mrs. Moshe Boyce	Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Metz	Rose Metz - Mahalli & Yossi	

**Rabbi's Message**

Continued from page 1

ship. Heights Jewish Center is now a shul that is attractive to young families. Many new members have proudly joined our shul and our community. We offer thought-provoking droshos and shiurim. People on all levels of learning and backgrounds come away having grown and learned something.

The current vibrant state of the shul is clearly built on the strong foundation that was Heights Jewish Center one year ago. As we continue to be faithful to what the shul has been, we strive to meet the needs of the shul in its current state as well. And as we evaluate what was and what is, we look towards 5768, knowing our successes, and planning to build on them during the coming year, with Hashem's guidance.

Just as drashos and davening in our shul meet the needs of many different types of people, we have planned social and educational events for the coming year to inspire the entire range within our congregation. Focus groups met this past year and offered loads of input on what you want out of your shul. As a result, series of shiurim on Shabbos, Kashrus, current events, Jewish history, and financial matters, among other issues, will be offered over the course of the coming year. Different venues are being planned to meet the needs of the young families who have recently joined our shul, including a weekly chaburah for men, occasional get-togethers and discussion groups. Deena will be starting a weekly women's discussion group, with children welcome, exploring the text of Eishes Chayil. A Taharas Hamishpacha review for men and women will be offered in the winter, as well. Some Motzoei Shabbos-nights out are also on the agenda for the coming year. The planning of an inspirational trip to Eretz Yisrael will surely infuse its participants with a renewed sense of growth that will spill over to the entire kehilla. These are some of the plans for growth in the coming year that will build on what the shul was and is.

Deena and I wish you all a kesiva v'chasima tova, a year that builds on our past successes for a bright future as individuals and as a shul.

Rabbi Raffy Davidovich

**Tips for High Holy Day  
Enjoyment**

- ◆ Only talk to your Creator during services. If you want to visit, please do so where it will not disturb your fellow worshipers.
- ◆ Reserve your seats early. Call or stop by the Office.
- ◆ If you are too ill to come to Shul to hear the Shofar, please call the office to arrange for someone to blow the shofar at your home.
- ◆ Baby sitting will be by reservation only. Call the office.
- ◆ Only youngsters who sit quietly will be allowed in the sanctuary. Please cooperate and respect those who want to concentrate on the prayers. We thank you for your understanding.
- ◆ Candy or other food items must be checked by the Rabbi before bringing them into the Shul. Even products "made in Israel" must be checked.
- ◆ For security reasons, all items brought into the Shul will be checked.

**Our hearts go out to those of  
you who recently lost a  
loved one ...**

- Adam and Rachel Covitch - son
- Sarah Greenberg and Sol Waxman - sister
- Sandy Becker - grandson
- Melanie Muller and family - Mother and grandmother
- Harold Males - sister

May you be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

## Beginnings... by Rabbi Dr. Akiva Tatz

Why Rosh Hashanah can affect the entire year "Everything goes after the beginning."

Reprint from the Ohr Samayach web site:  
<http://ohr.edu/>

This statement of Chazal contains hidden depth. The moment of conception of anything which comes into existence must contain all the elements of the future of that thing. Just as all the genes of a human being are laid down at conception and thereafter all the physical features which manifest in the child as it develops are results of those genes, so too all phenomena in the world are a reflection of the elements contained, infinitely compressed, in their beginnings.

The moment of transition from non-existence to existence is the most potent, containing all. Thereafter, as the child develops, a critical phase follows, but not as critical as the first instant, and so on, each phase a revelation of the coding of the previous. The closer to the beginning, the more critical. Small effects at the genetic level will be much more far-reaching than larger effects during embryonic development, and effects at embryonic level more far-reaching than effects at the adult level. Therefore, the moment which demands greatest care, greatest intensity, greatest purity, is the very first.

Time is also a creation. The Jewish year is an organic entity. Its conception takes place on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. For this reason we are so extremely careful about trying to live correctly on Rosh Hashana and the subsequent days. The way one begins the year will determine how the rest of the year reveals itself. If one can form the genes of the year correctly, the fetus will develop correctly and the child and adult will be wholesome.

Mistakes in this phase will be very hard to correct later. Efforts made in the first ten days may prevent major "surgery" being necessary later. Each moment of Rosh Hashana should be used with exquisite care, only positive personality traits should be manifest, great control over anger and other negative traits should be exercised. Many have the custom not to sleep during the day of Rosh Hashana, at least not until midday -- they want to lay down the genes of the year in consciousness and spiritual effort, not oblivion.

What should be the major focus of the day? Can one really correct all one's personality faults in one day, or even ten? The answer lies in a description of Chazal's of the human being. There is a description of a righteous person as a tree planted in good soil whose branches overhang bad soil. The meaning is that the root is good,

the person is essentially good, but no-one is perfect and the branches overhanging bad ground represent the person's shortcomings. However, some pruning will reveal roots entirely good. The pruning may take the form of suffering in this world -- in the next world, the dimension of truth, the person will be revealed as wholly positive.

A negative individual is described as a tree planted in bad soil where branches overhang good ground. The root and essence are bad, but even the worst individual has positive actions and qualities. However, some pruning will reveal the essence as bad. The pruning may take the form of great happiness and reward in this world, leaving a clarified existence of negativity in the next.

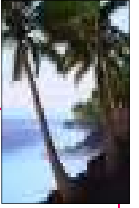
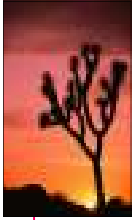
This idea helps one to understand a difficult section in the Rambam. The Rambam states that on Rosh Hashana the righteous are sealed for life immediately, the evil are sealed for the opposite immediately, and those who are intermediate, neither righteous nor evil, hang in the balance until Yom Kippur. The Rambam says that these are people whose mitzvos exactly equal their aveiros. (Not necessarily in number, quality counts.)

The strange part of this discussion is that the Rambam goes on to say that most people are in this third category, that is exactly balanced between good and bad. Is it really possible that most people are exactly balanced in terms of their positive and negative actions?

The explanation, however, is that what is meant here is not an exact balancing of actions, what is meant is that most people are trees planted midway between good and bad soil -- available for good and positive actions when the opportunity arises, when inspiration occurs, but unfortunately, available for selfishness and negativity when tempted. Most people have never made a conscious policy decision about what they are here for. Where is your tree planted? Its default position straddles the line. What is required at the moment of conception of consciousness, at the moment of conception of time, is a decision about who I am in essence, not about which technical actions need work -- that will come later.

Rosh Hashana is a time for moving the core, making sure the tree is moved entirely into positive territory, the pruning is the second stage. Consciously choosing a positive direction, setting a spiritual goal and beginning movement in its direction is what Rosh Hashana must teach.

*Consciously choosing a positive direction, setting a spiritual goal and beginning movement in its direction is what Rosh Hashana must teach.*



## Kindness and a Welcoming Attitude is All you Need By Marla Lipman

When I first became observant, I was, for the most part, on my own. I did not have a strong attachment to the observant community. I lived on Antisdale in Cleveland Heights and would walk to Taylor Rd Synagogue on Shabbos morning. I would meet a friend there who also did not have much of an attachment to the community. After davening (services), I would go home to my parents' house on Antisdale and eat a cold Shabbos lunch, often by myself. The day would be very long, with nobody to visit or to share the Shabbos experience. There were a few observant families on my street that I did not know very well. My commitment was floundering.

One Shabbos morning, as I was walking home from Taylor Rd Synagogue, an observant man came sprinting out of his house toward me. I barely knew him. After Shabbos greetings, he asked if I would like to join his family for lunch. I could not join them that day, so he invited me for the next Shabbos, which I did accept. That next week I nervously walked over to his family's house, not knowing what to expect. I did not really know them, but felt the invitation was a kind gesture. It was not a large house, even though the man had a wife and five small children. The food was great and I had a wonderful time. I became their regular guest. I felt like part of their family, always receiving warm treatment from the parents as well as the children. My commitment as a Torah Jew became much stronger. Harriett Bloch, the mother of this wonderful family, was often outside with her children, during the weekdays, kibbutzing with all the neighbors, whether they were religious or not. Since many nonobservant people do not have contact with observant people, getting the friendly, welcoming feeling from someone like Harriett was crucial. My mother became friendly with Harriett and got a really good impression of observant people through the way Harriett interacted with people of all backgrounds.

A few years later, the Blochs celebrated with me when I became a Kallah (engaged) and at my wedding. Today, we still remain good friends. Harriett later revealed that they were hesitant to come outside and invite me over to their house. They had watched me walk by for several weeks but were afraid of what my reaction would be to an invitation from a family I barely knew. In fact I am incredibly grateful that they made the decision to invite me to join their family that Shabbos many years ago as I am not sure if I would be where I am today if they had not reached out to me.

I am sure many people have similar stories. The Blochs had no special training in Kiruv (outreach). They were just a regular observant family that welcomed me in a friendly and accepting way. I learned how beautiful an observant family's life can be and wanted to live my life in a similar fashion. While it is difficult to reach out to nonobservant Jews as we are uncertain about how they will react, I urge everyone to do whatever they can. Just welcoming others and taking an interest in them can make a positive difference in people's lives. It certainly did so for me.

### Project INSPIRE

If you are not quite ready to invite a perfect stranger for Shabbos, Project Inspire has a Yom Tov campaign to help you break the ice. You can purchase a small jar of honey with a beautiful new year's card and send it or drop it off at the home or office of a friend or acquaintance like your dentist, your attorney, your cousin, your accountant, your banker... The list is endless. Even the most detached person will react positively to this kindness and your remembering them at this special time of year. Perhaps you can follow up with them, if they don't call you first to rave about your thoughtfulness, to see how things are. Later you might send them a Chanukah card or gift and you are on your way to bringing that person in closer to Torah and to receiving the zchus that such an act of kindness deserves.

Jars of honey with cards will be available at the synagogue for \$2. each. A small investment for such a beautiful mitzvah.



# SEPTEMBER 2007 ELUL5767-TISHREI 5768

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Parsha Ki Tavo Shabbos ends :8:50 18 Elul
2 Weekday Mincha 7:35 pm	3	4	5	6	7  7:32 pm  24 Elul	8 Parsha Nitzavim- Vayelech Shabbos ends 8:38 Slichos - 12:45 a.m. 25 Elul
9 Weekday Mincha 7:25 pm	10	11	12 Erev Rosh Hashana  7:25 pm 29 Elul	13 1st Day Rosh Hashana 8 am  8:29 pm 1 Tishrei	14  7:20 pm 2nd Day Rosh Hashana 8 am 2 Tishrei	15 Parsha Haazinu Shabbos Shuvah Shabbos ends 8:26 3 Tishrei
16 Weekday Mincha 7:15 pm Fast of Gedaliah Starts 5:55 am Ends 8:24 pm	17	18	19	20	21  7:08 pm Erev Yom Kippur Kol nidre 7:10 Fast begins 7:26 pm 9 Tishrei	22 Yom Kippur Fast ends 8:14  10 Tishrei
23 Weekday Mincha 7:00 pm	24	25	26 Erev Succos  6:59 pm 14 Tishrei	27 1st Day Succos 9 am 8:05 pm  15 Tishrei	28  6:56 pm 2nd Day Succos 9 am 16 Tishrei	29 Shabbos ends 8:02 1st Day Chol Hamoed 17 Tishrei
30 Weekday Mincha 6:50 pm	<p style="text-align: center;"> <b>Heights Jewish Center 14270 Cedar Road</b>  <b>University Heights, Ohio 44121</b>  <b>216 382 1958 office@hjcs.org</b> </p>					

# OCTOBER 2007 - TISHREI - CHESHVAN 5768

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 3rd Day Chol Hamoed  19 Tishrei	2 4th Day Chol Hamoed  20 Tishrei	3 Hoshana Rabba   6:47 pm 21 Tishrei	4 Shemini Atzeret Yizkor   7:53 pm 22 Tishrei	5 Shimchas Torah Morning Services 8:30 am   6:44 pm 23 Tishrei	6 Birchat HaChodesh Parsha Bereshit Shabbos ends 7:50 pm  24 Tishrei
7 Weekday Mincha 6:40 pm	8	9	10	11 Men's Class 9 pm	12  6:32 pm 1st Day Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan Shabbos ends 7:39 pm 30 Tishrei 1 Cheshvan	13 Parsha Noach 2nd Day Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan Shabbos ends 7:39 pm 1 Cheshvan
14 Weekday Mincha 6:25 pm	15	16 Mom and Tot Class 2 pm	17 Shabbos/Kashrus Class Men/Women 8 pm	18 Men's Class 9 pm	19  6:21 pm 7 Cheshvan	20 Parsha Lech-Lecha  Shabbos ends 7:28 pm 8 Cheshvan
21 Weekday Mincha 6:15 pm	22	23 Mom and Tot Class 2 pm	24 Shabbos/Kashrus Class Men/Women 8 pm	25 Men's Class 9 pm	26  6:11 pm 14 Cheshvan	27 Parsha Vayera  Shabbos ends 7:18 pm 15 Cheshvan
28 Weekday Mincha 6:05 pm	29	30 Mom and Tot Class 2 pm	31 Shabbos/Kashrus Class Men/Women 8 pm	Heights Jewish Center 14270 Cedar Road University Heights, Ohio 44121 216 382 1958 office@hjcs.org		

**Happy anniversary**

We wish you many, many more happy, healthy years together.

<b>September</b>	Dr. & Mrs. Fred Bolotin
Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Goldstein	Mr. & Mrs. Tamas Muencz
Mr. & Mrs. Irwin Shulman	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Zeitler
Mr. & Mrs. Moshe Taub	
<b>October</b>	
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Fleeter	Mr. & Mrs. Albert Pollack

**Happy birthday — May your future be filled with long, healthy years with nachas from family.**

<b>September</b>	Fred Bolotin	Mollie Fein
Sherrie Fleeter	Gershon Ireland	Bea Goldstein
Barbara Gulko	Judy Joseph	Calvin Kossiver
Anna Lerer	Stuart Mintz	Isabel Parks
Bobbie Perkel	Barbara Schur	Moshe Taub
Rivka Taub		
<b>October</b>	Katia Bolotin	Sandra Becker
Millie Chrabry	Meyer Hoffer	Channa Ireland
Raizel Michelow	Charles A. Zeitler	

**Mazal Tov, Mazal Tov**

We wish a mazal tov to Stephen and Patricia Crane and to Larry and Linda Crane on the bat Mitzvah of their daughter and granddaughter Samantha Lynne.

Mazal tov to the graduates: Sora Mendelson from Bolton School of Nursing at CWRU, Devorah Goldblatt with a bachelor of Arts and Science with a triple major from CWRU. To Lena Katz and her family on her grandson's graduation with a Business Degree in St. Louis.

Leora and Reuven Mandel on the birth of a baby girl, also to Katia and Fred Bolotin (grandparents) and Sarah and Joe Greenberg (great-grandparents.)

Irwin and Lorna Shulman on the bar mitzvah of their grandson.

Ben and Sarah Rancman and Mrs. Millie Chrabry (great-grandma) and family on the birth of a baby boy.

Harry and Margaret Schuster on the marriage of their grandson.

*Welcome to our new members:*

Jeff and Linda Bookman

Zev and Malka Rhodes

Mrs. Dora Stankowicz

Mark and Serena Wiseman

**We thank** our members and friends who have sponsored the lovely Kiddushim and Shelosh Seudos in the past months. We appreciate your chesed and generosity.

**Kiddush**

- Fred and Katia Bolotin in honor of their daughter and granddaughter.
- Sherry and Izzy Mendenhall in memory of Sherry's mother and other relatives yahrzeits.
- Shimon and Irit Kol in honor of their daughter's bat mitzvah.
- Barbara Schlesinger and family in honor of Dick Schlesinger's birthday.
- Sandy and Chuck Zeitler in honor of their family.
- Many families in honor of Rabbi Davidovich's citizenship.
- Alex Adelman in honor of his granddaughter.

**Shelosh Seuda**

- Mrs. Rachel Faigenbam in memory of her husband's yahrzeit.
- Mrs. Dora Stankowicz in memory of her husband's yahrzeit.
- Mr. Alex Adelman in memory of his father's yahrzeit.
- Harry and Margaret Schuster in memory of his mishpocha.
- Dr. Bela Glaser.
- Mr. and Mrs. Steve Baker in honor of their anniversary.

**Hello, we are glad you are with us**

**Simple Chicken A La Orange**

A sweet recipe for a sweet year.

**INGREDIENTS:**

4 skinless, boneless chicken breasts	2 1/2 cups orange juice
1 tablespoon vegetable oil	3 tablespoons cornstarch
1/2 cup hot water	3 tablespoons honey
1/4 teaspoon ground ginger	

**PREPARATION:**

1. In a skillet, brown chicken breasts in 1 tablespoon oil over medium heat. Cook till juices run clear.
2. Add orange juice to the pan. When juice just begins to bubble around the edges of the pan, add corn starch dissolved in hot water. Mix ginger and honey together in a cup, and add to orange juice. Cook until sauce is thick and slightly browned. Serves four.



**Baked Apricot Chicken**

An easy tangy/sweet recipe for Yom Tov

**INGREDIENTS:**

12 chicken thighs	1 cup apricot preserves
1 cup French dressing	1 package onion soup mix

**PREPARATION:**

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F
2. In a medium bowl combine the jam, dressing and soup mix. Mix together.
3. Place chicken pieces in a 9x13 inch baking dish. Pour apricot mixture over chicken and bake uncovered in the preheated oven for 50 to 60 minutes.
4. Garnish as desired and serve.

**Did you reserve your High Holy Day seats yet???**

If you did, thank you. If you didn't, please call the office 216 382 1958 mornings Mon-Fri 8:30-12:30

**Heights Jewish Center Synagogue**  
**Beth Hamidros Hagodol**  
 14270 Cedar Road  
 University Heights, Ohio 44121  
 office@hjcs.org or rabbi@hjcs.org

**WE ARE ON THE WEB**

[www.hjcs.org](http://www.hjcs.org)

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- Raphael Davidovich, Rabbi
  - Rabbi Dr. Doniel Schur zt"l
  - Gershon Ireland, President
  - Efraim Bolotin, 1st V. P.
  - Chanon Perkel, 2nd V. P.
  - Moshe Boyce, Treas./Fin. Sec.
  - Neil Parks, Recording Sec.
  - Lena Katz, Miriam Chamberg - Office Staff
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**Your Heights Jewish Center News is Here!!!**